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Summary record of the 39th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 20 December 2001, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Effah-Apenteng ..... (Ghana)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 121: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Albania (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.27)

Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.27

1. *Draft decision A/C.5/56/L.27 was adopted.*

Agenda item 125: Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.23

2. **Mr. Chandra** (India), introducing draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.23, said that the understanding in paragraph 6 of the draft text was that the report of the Secretary-General would be submitted during the main part of the General Assembly's fifty-seventh session for subsequent consideration by the Committee at the resumed fifty-seventh session.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.23 was adopted.*

4. **Ms. Silot Bravo** (Cuba), speaking in explanation of position, said that the substance of the draft resolution remained of concern to her delegation. The question of Member States in arrears in their payments must be looked at in its broader context. It was unacceptable to establish a link between the granting of exemptions under Article 19 of the Charter and measures of the type addressed in the draft text. Each case should be examined on its own merits.

Agenda item 127: United Nations common system (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.15)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.15

5. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.15 was adopted.*

6. **Mr. Tilemans** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Union welcomed the consensus that had been reached on the issue and was glad that important elements of the Secretary-General's proposals were now moving forward.

Agenda item 131: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.25)

Agenda item 132: Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (*continued*) (A/C.5/56/L.26)

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.25

7. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway), coordinator of the informal consultations on the item, introduced and orally revised draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.25. In paragraph 7, the word "firm" should be inserted before "exit strategy".

8. **Mr. Chandra** (India) said that the word "firm" should be inserted before the words "exit strategy" in both paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft text in order to be faithful to the formulation that had been used by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

9. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the words used in paragraph 21 of the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/56/666) were "a firm, realistically achievable exit strategy". If a political decision were made to exclude the words "realistically achievable", then the Fifth Committee should go along with the coordinator's suggestion. If, however, the wish was to bring the wording of the draft resolution into line with the words used by the Advisory Committee, then the words "realistically achievable" should also be included.

10. **Mr. Iossifov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had no objections to the use of the phrase "a firm exit strategy".

11. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that use of the term "realistically achievable" had never been discussed, but that it was for the Committee to decide.

12. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Committee should go along with the suggestion made by the coordinator and retain the wording "a firm exit strategy", especially since in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution the Assembly would, in any event, endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.25, as orally revised and amended, was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.26

14. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) introduced and orally revised draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.26.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.26, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Agenda item 123: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (*continued*)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/56/L.62: Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security (A/56/720; A/C.5/56/31)

16. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division) introduced the statement submitted by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/56/L.62, contained in document A/C.5/56/31. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/56/L.62, the requirements of $7,355,400 would be charged against the provision of $93,691,600 for special political missions requested in section 3 (Political affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

17. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/56/720), said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution A/56/L.62, an amount of $7,355,400 would be charged against the provision of $93.7 million for special political missions requested under section 3 (Political affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

18. **The Chairman** proposed that, without prejudice to the rules of procedure under which documents containing decisions were required to be issued 24 hours in advance of the adoption of the decision, and based on the recommendation contained in paragraph 7 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/56/720), the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/56/L.62, an amount of $7,355,400 would be charged against the provision of $93.7 million for special missions requested under section 3 (Political affairs) of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

19. *It was so decided.*

Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (A/56/7/Add.6; A/C.5/56/25/Add.1)

20. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council was seized (A/C.5/56/25/Add.1), said that the total estimated requirements for the United Nations Office in Burundi, the mandate for which extended into the biennium 2002-2003, amounted to $6,925,800, which would be charged against the $93.7 million provision proposed for special political missions under section 3 (Political affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. In a letter dated 7 December 2001 (S/2001/1207), the President of the Security Council had informed the Secretary-General that the members of the Security Council supported his recommendations to strengthen the Office in order to assist in the implementation of the peace accord in Arusha.

21. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/56/7/Add.6), said that the Advisory Committee recommended that consideration of the estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council was seized be deferred pending a detailed review to be conducted by the Advisory Committee in February 2002. In the meantime, it recommended that an amount of $1,700,000 for the period 1 January to 31 March 2002 should be charged

against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3 (Political affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

22. **The Chairman** proposed that, without prejudice to the rules of procedure under which documents containing decisions were required to be issued 24 hours in advance of the adoption of the decision, the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/56/25/Add.1 on the estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized, and concurs with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 11 of its report;

Approves the charge of $1.7 million for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2002 for the United Nations Office in Burundi (A/C.5/56/25/Add.1) against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3 (Political affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003;

Decides to resume its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized at its first resumed session in March 2002."

23. *It was so decided.*

Estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized (A/56/7/Add.7; A/C.5/56/25/Add.2)

24. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council was seized (A/C.5/56/25/Add.2), said that the total estimated requirements for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus for a one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2002 amounted to $1,413,400, which would be charged against the $93,691,600 provision proposed for special political missions under section 3 (Political affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. In a letter dated 5 December 2001 to the President of the Security Council (S/2001/1182), the Secretary-General had drawn the Council's attention to the fact that efforts relating to the mission of his good offices in Cyprus would continue at least throughout 2002.

25. **Mr. Mselle** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/56/7/Add.7), said that the Advisory Committee recommended a different course of action with respect to the request under consideration. While the Committee would take into account the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/56/25/Add.2) when it resumed consideration of the estimates contained in documents A/C.5/56/25 and Add.1 in February 2002, it recommended that an amount of $1,413,400 be charged against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3 (Political affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for the Special Adviser on Cyprus for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2002.

26. **The Chairman** proposed that, without prejudice to the rules of procedure under which documents containing decisions were required to be issued 24 hours in advance of the adoption of the decision, the Fifth Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/C.5/56/25/Add.2 on the estimates in respect of matters of which the Security Council is seized, and concurs with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 7 of its report;

Approves the charge of $1,413,400 for the period from 1 January to 31 March 2002 for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus (A/C.5/56/25/Add.2) against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3 (Political affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003."

27. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.